

## **TITLE 327 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

### **LSA Document #01-429(WPCB)**

#### **SUMMARY/RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED AT THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING:**

On November 14, 2001, the Water Pollution Control Board conducted the first public hearing/board meeting concerning the development of new rule 327 IAC 7.1. Comments were made by the following party:

Bill Hayden (BH)

Following is a summary of the comments received and IDEM's responses thereto:

*Comment:* I do not oppose the adoption of this rule, but I think that land application of septage that's only treated with lime is environmentally risky, and inevitably will contaminate the waters of the state.

This is highly concentrated stuff; almost as bad as hog waste. It probably doesn't have quite as much phosphorus, but it seems to me that it should be treated as any other sewage waste. It should be treated through a sewage treatment plant rather than just spread on the open ground.

I also am concerned, if I read the rule right, even though someone who's doing this has to give a lot of information about environmental features such as sinkholes and so on, I'm not sure that the Commissioner, under the rule, has the authority to refuse to grant a permit because of environmental liability. I hope I'm not reading this correctly, but if I've read it right, I'm very concerned about that. (BH)

*Response:* IDEM disagrees. Regarding the treatment of septage, 327 IAC 7.1 as proposed is more stringent than the current requirements in 327 IAC 7 and some parts of the applicable federal regulations. The proposed treatment requirements include adding lime to all types of wastewater loads that will be land applied with the exception of grease only loads. Vector attraction and pathogen reduction requirements have been updated, setback restrictions have been increased, and application rates have been reduced. Record keeping requirements also have been increased.

In regards to IDEM's Commissioner's authority, IDEM believes the proposed rule language gives the commissioner adequate authority to refuse to grant land application approvals under specified conditions.